

REMARKS

The Examiner's indication of the allowability of claims 1-4 and 22-26 is acknowledged with appreciation.

Applicants propose that the specification be amended to delete, "German Patent Application No. 19806848.4, filed February 18, 1998," which was inserted by Examiner's amendment. As indicated in Applicants reply of March 22, 2006 and in view of the Patent Office communication of February 16, 2006, Applicants do not claim priority to German application 19806848.4 filed February 18, 1998.

Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments are proposed to ensure proper disclosure and that no further consideration by the Patent Office is required. Therefore Applicants respectfully request that such amendments be entered in the Application. Also, Applicants respectfully request that, if possible, such changes be made without withdrawing the application from issue.

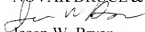
Furthermore, Applicants respectfully request a telephone interview if such is necessary or desired to discuss the proposed amendment and are available by telephone at any time.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees, to Deposit Account No. 14.1437. Please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the Office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,
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